

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 148748
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES:JD
APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES
-----087504 251311Z /41
R 251305Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 148748

STADIS/////////
FOR AMBASSADOR ONLY FROM VIELIOTES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN AID PROGRAMS

1. AMBASSADOR HEDDA IS PLANNING TO LEAVE WASHINGTON AFTER-
NOON OF JUNE 28 FOR MONTH HOME LEAVE AND CONSULTATIONS.
HE WILL ATTEND TUNISIAN CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING IN
EARLY JULY.

2. HEDDA HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY ACTIVE ON THE HILL OF LATE,
TRYING TO DRUM UP SUPPORT FOR INCREASED ECONOMIC AND FMS
MILITARY ASSISTANCE. FOR EXAMPLE, SENATOR STONE, CHAIRMAN
OF MIDEAST SUBCOMMITTEE OF SFRC, TELLS US THAT HE AND
SENATOR PERCY WOULD SUPPORT ANY REASONABLE INCREASES IN
EITHER OR BOTH CATEGORIES THAT DEPARTMENT AND AID MIGHT
PROPOSE.

3. I WAS PRESENT DURING HEDDA'S CALL TODAY ON DICK
ERICSON, DEPUTY IN PM, FOR A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF FMS
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PROCEDURES, ETC. HE WILL SEE JOE WHEELER, ASSISTANT
ADMINISTRATOR FOR NESA IN AID ON MONDAY. IN DISCUSSION
WITH WHEELER, HEDDA WILL TRY TO GET BETTER PERSONAL FEEL
OF AREAS IN WHICH AID MIGHT BE WILLING TO ENTERTAIN
INCREASE IN TUNISIAN DEVELOPMENT RURAL PROGRAMS WITHIN
CONTEXT OF AID GUIDELINES. HEDDA SAID HE IS HOPEFUL

THAT NEW 5-YEAR PLAN TO BE DISCUSSED AT CONSULTATIVE
GROUP MEETING WILL OPEN UP NEW PERSPECTIVES FOR INCREASED
U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

4. IN ALL OF OUR CONVERSATIONS WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO
HEDDA THAT WHILE USG IS SYMPATHETIC TO TUNISIA AND
TUNISIA'S NEEDS WE CANNOT PROMISE ANYTHING CONCRETE
UNTIL WE HAVE RECEIVED PROPOSALS SUPPORTED BY THE EMBASSY
AND THEN WEIGHED THESE AGAINST COMPETING WORLD-WIDE
DEMANDS. I BELIEVE IT IS CLEAR THAT HEDDA UNDERSTANDS
OUR POSITION AND IT SHOULD BE IN THIS SPIRIT THAT HE
DISCUSSES THE SUBJECT WITH HIS OWN GOVERNMENT. HE WILL,
OF COURSE, ALSO BE TALKING WITH YOU. MY GUESS IS THAT
IN THE FMS FIELD HE MIGHT TRY TO GET SOME ACTION ON THE
TOW AND F-5'S. PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO LET YOU
KNOW THAT YOUR COUNTERPART HERE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY ACTIVE
AND TO GIVE YOU SOME IDEA OF HIS THINKING WHICH YOU WILL
EITHER GET DIRECTLY FROM HIM, FROM YOUR SENIOR GOT
CONTACTS, OR BOTH.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE148748
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NAVELIOTES:JD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770228-0303
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770618/aaaaapng.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f8d37e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2031151
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TUNISIAN AID PROGRAMS
TAGS: OVIP, TS, (HEDDA, ALI)
To: TUNIS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f8d37e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009